

CLAIMS

Claim 1. A planter for growing a transplantable plant having a root system and a stem which extends from the root system, the planter comprising:

a container having an interior, a bottom and a hole defined within the bottom; and

a retainer member which is attachable to the plant desired to be transplanted within the planter and which cooperates with the container for supporting the plant through the hole defined within the container bottom so that the root system is exposed to the interior of the container and so that the plant stem extends downwardly from the bottom of the container.

Claim 2. The planter as defined in Claim 1 wherein the retainer member is positionable about the stem of the plant desired to be transplanted, and the retainer member is positionable within the interior of the planter so that when positioned about the stem of the plant and positioned within the interior of the container, the retainer member is prevented from falling out of the hole defined within the container bottom.

Claim 3. The planter as defined in Claim 2 wherein the retainer member is in the form of a foam body having a slit provided therein for accepting the stem of the plant desired to be

transplanted when the plant stem is inserted sideways therein.

Claim 4. The planter as defined in Claim 3 wherein the container includes means associated with the container bottom for preventing the retainer member from falling through the hole defined within the container bottom after the retainer member has been positioned within the interior of the container.

Claim 5. The planter as defined in Claim 4 wherein the associated means defines a radially inwardly-directed flange which substantially encircles the hole defined within the container bottom, and the retainer member is prevented from falling out of the container bottom through the hole thereof by the radially inwardly-directed flange.

Claim 6. The planter as defined in Claim 1 further includes divider means for separating the interior of the container into an upper compartment and a lower compartment so that materials used for plant growth can be separated from one another within the container interior.

Claim 7. The planter as defined in Claim 6 wherein the divider means includes a body which is porous in nature for permitting the passage of water and fertilizer from the upper compartment of the container and into the lower compartment thereof.

Claim 8. The planter as defined in Claim 7 wherein the divider means includes a body of foam material which is sized to span the interior of the container when positioned therein.

Claim 9. The planter as defined in Claim 7 wherein the divider means includes a multiple of bodies of porous material for dividing the interior of container into a lower compartment and a multiple of upper compartments.

Claim 10. The planter as defined in Claim 1 wherein the container includes a bag having flexible sidewalls which permit the bag to be collapsed for shipping, packaging and storage.

Claim 11. A planter for growing a transplantable plant having a root system and a stem which extends from the root system, the planter comprising:

a container having an interior for containing dirt or potting soil within which the plant can be grown, a bottom and a hole defined within the bottom; and

a retainer member which is positionable about the stem of the plant desired to be transplanted within the planter and which cooperates with the container for supporting the plant through the hole defined within the container bottom so that the root system is exposed to dirt or potting soil contained within the interior of the container and so that the plant stem extends downwardly from the bottom of the container.

Claim 12. The planter as defined in Claim 11 wherein the retainer is in the form of a foam body positionable about the stem of the plant so that when positioned about the stem of the plant and then positioned within the interior of the container adjacent the bottom thereof, the retainer member is prevented from falling out of the hole defined within the container bottom.

Claim 13. The planter as defined in Claim 12 wherein the foam body of the retainer member defines a slit for accepting the stem of the plant desired to be transplanted within the container when the plant stem is inserted sideways therein.

Claim 14. The planter as defined in Claim 11 wherein the container includes means associated with the container bottom for preventing the retainer member from falling through the hole defined within the container bottom after the retainer member has been positioned within the interior of the container.

Claim 15. The planter as defined in Claim 14 wherein the associated means defines a radially inwardly-directed flange which substantially encircles the hole defined within the container bottom, and the retainer member is prevented from falling out of the container bottom through the hole thereof by the radially inwardly-directed flange.

Claim 16. The planter as defined in Claim 15 further comprising divider means for separating the interior of the container into an upper compartment and a lower compartment so that materials used for plant growth can be separated from one another.

Claim 17. The planter as defined in Claim 16 wherein the divider means includes a body which is porous in nature for permitting the passage of water and fertilizer from the upper compartment of the container and into the lower compartment thereof.

Claim 18. The planter as defined in Claim 17 wherein the divider means includes a body of foam material which is sized to span the interior of the container when positioned therein.

Claim 19. The planter as defined in Claim 17 wherein the divider means includes a multiple of bodies of porous material for dividing the interior of container into a lower compartment and a multiple of upper compartments.

Claim 20. The planter as defined in Claim 11 further including means for supporting the remainder of the planter from an elevated support structure.